

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

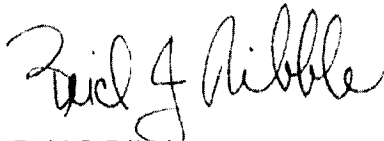
Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Moniz, and Secretary Vilsack:

We write to support biomass energy as a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source. Federal policies across all departments and agencies must remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear, unambiguous message that forest bioenergy is part of the nation's energy future.

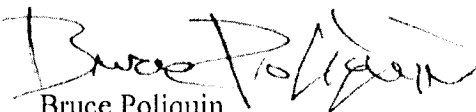
Many states are relying on renewable biomass to meet their energy goals, and we support renewable biomass to create jobs and economic growth while meeting our nation's energy needs. A comprehensive science, technical, and legal administrative record supports a clear and simple policy establishing the benefits of energy from forest biomass. Federal policies that add unnecessary costs and complexity will discourage rather than encourage investment in working forests, harvesting operations, bioenergy, wood products, and paper manufacturing. Unclear or contradictory signals from federal agencies could discourage biomass utilization as an energy solution.

The carbon neutrality of forest biomass has been recognized repeatedly by numerous studies, agencies, institutions, legislation, and rules around the world, and there has been no dispute about the carbon neutrality of biomass derived from residuals of forest products manufacturing and agriculture. Our constituents employed in the biomass supply chain deserve a federal policy that recognizes the clear benefits of forest bioenergy. We urge you to ensure that federal policies are consistent and reflect the carbon neutrality of these types of bioenergy.

Sincerely,



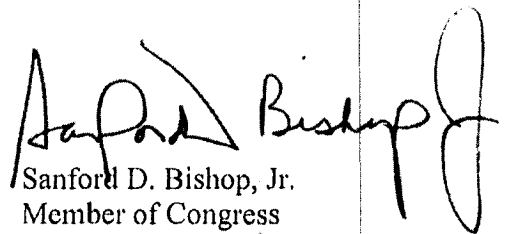
Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress




Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Tom Cole

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

John J. Duncan, Jr.

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Member of Congress

Stephen Lee Fincher

Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress

John Fleming

John Fleming
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Tren Franks

Tren Franks
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Tom Graves

Tom Graves
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney

Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree

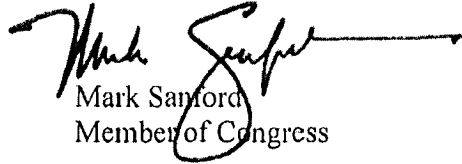
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Hal Rogers

Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



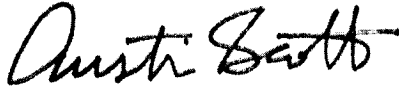
Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



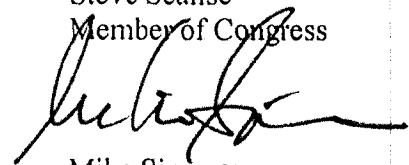
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



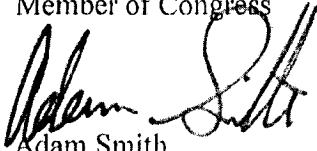
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



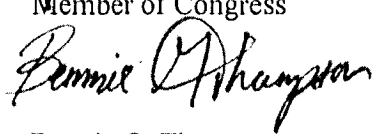
John Shimkus
Member of Congress



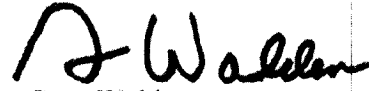
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



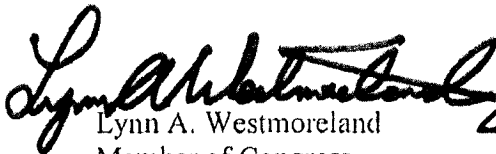
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress




Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress




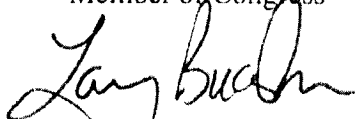
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress





Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress


Mike Bost
Member of Congress

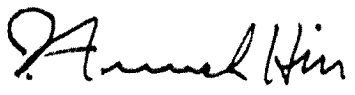

Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



Doug Collins
Member of Congress

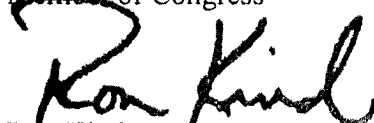

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Renee L. Ellmers
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress


J. French Hill
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress

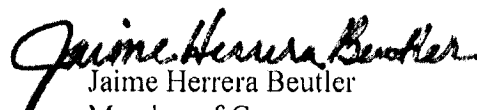

Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



David W. Jolly
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

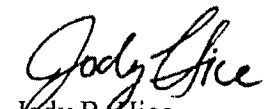

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

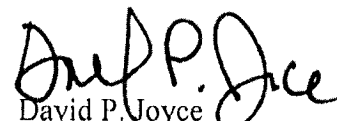

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

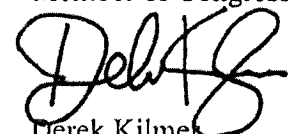

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress


Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress


David P. Joyce
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

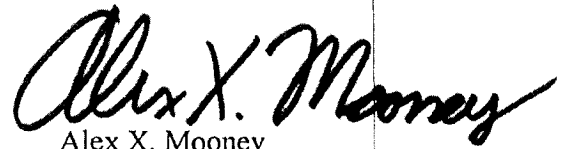

Raul R. Labrador
Member of Congress



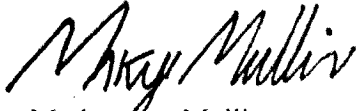
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



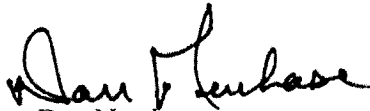
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



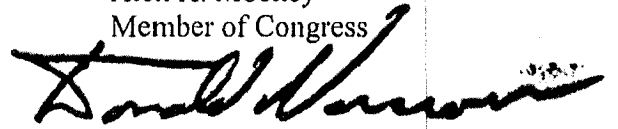
Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



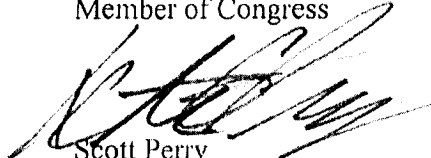
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



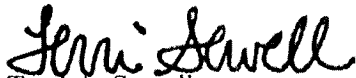
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



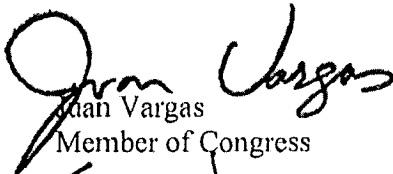
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



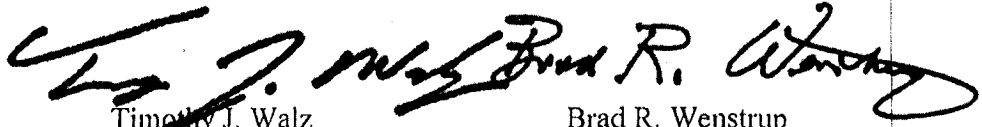
Dave Trott
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress




Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



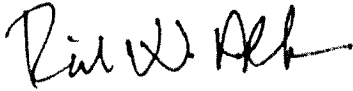
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



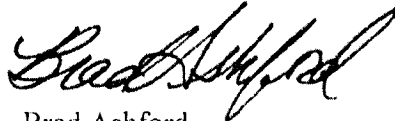
Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress




Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



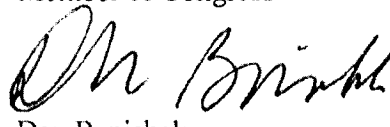
Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



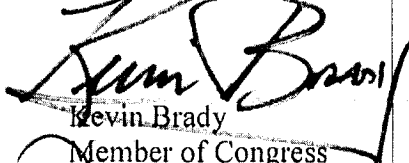
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



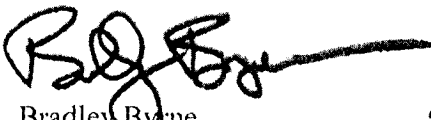
Rod Blum
Member of Congress



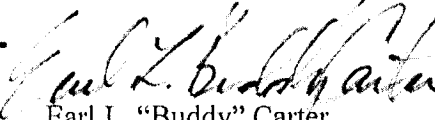
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



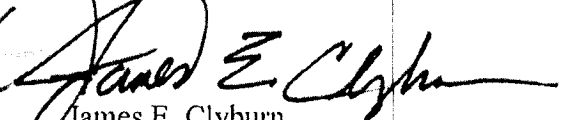
Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



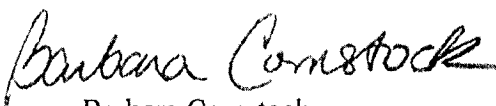
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



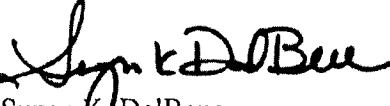
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



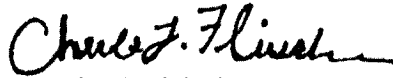
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



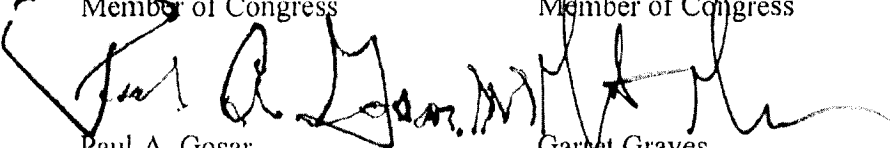
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



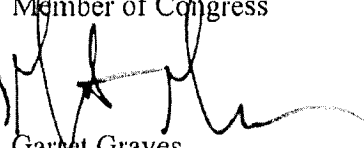
Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



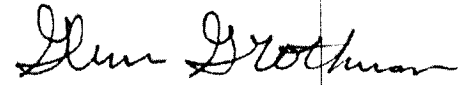
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



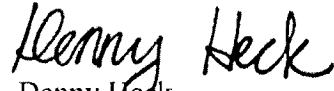
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress



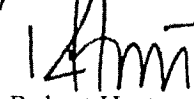
Richard L. Hanna
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt
Member of Congress



Evan H. Jenkins
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
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David Scott
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Scott R. Tipton
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Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

David Young
Member of Congress

Ryan K. Zinke
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